

Thursday 20 September 2007

## NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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### DUP NEWS

#### Latest News:

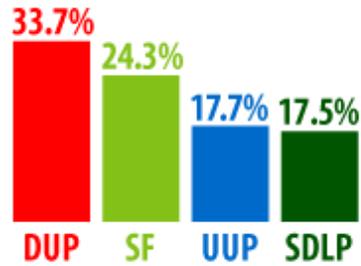
## OMBUDSMAN'S PERCEIVED POLITICAL BIAS UNDERMINES INVESTIGATIONS

DUP Lagan Valley MP Jeffrey Donaldson has commented on an Ombudsman investigation into how the RUC handled threats against Rosemary Nelson by stating that *"It is right and proper that instances of alleged police short-fallings are fully investigated so as complaints can receive closure. However there is increasing concern in the unionist community regarding the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman's impartiality."* The DUP Policing Board member continued by saying,



*"Investigations into the past are highly sensitive for all involved. Those sensitivities should be taken into consideration by the Ombudsman. In many reports which the Ombudsman has conducted she has failed to acknowledge the extreme circumstances within which the RUC were operating. There was a failure to accept the high stress levels and mental strains of a constant death threat hanging over one's head and the sight of colleagues being maimed almost daily."*

## ELECTION RESULTS:

**DUP: Leading for Ulster**

2005 Westminster Results

*Many former RUC officers have no confidence in the Ombudsman because of her perceived political bias when selecting cases to investigate. The murder of Rosemary Nelson will be condemned by all right-thinking people. It was a murder and murder is wrong but former RUC officers have concerns that attempts are being made by the Ombudsman to lay the full blame for the murder at the door of the RUC. This murder was the work of paramilitaries and we must be careful not to offend the sterling work of the RUC in combating paramilitaries during the Troubles. Many Officers gave their life defending this Province from paramilitaries, on all sides, and we must give the Officers due credit.*

*The Police Ombudsman has an important role to play in Northern Ireland but the holder of the position should be free from political baggage so as they can have the respect and confidence of everyone in the Province. I look forward to the new Ombudsman taking up his position and trust that he will not repeat the mistakes of his predecessor."*

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